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10/523,423

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Junichi Ohnishi

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EXAMINER

SMITH, PHILIP ROBERT

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3739

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/10/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/523,423 | Applicant(s) OHNISHI ET AL. | |
| | Examiner PHILIP R. SMITH | Art Unit 3739 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6 and 9-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5,6,9,27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Supplemental Action

- [01] The Office action of 5/19/09 failed to address newly added claims 27-28. The oversight is corrected herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- [02] The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- [03] Claims 1-2, 5-6, & 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
- [04] Claims 1, 2, & 6 recite “the positional information detected by the positional relationship detecting unit.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. This could be corrected by striking “of the positional information.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- [05] The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
- [06] The rejection of claims 1-2, 5-6, & 9 as being anticipated by Blanco (5,005,559) set forth in the Office action of 8/20/08 are withdrawn in view of the amendments of 11/7/08.
- [07] Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9, 27, & 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shan (5,728,044).

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[08] Shan discloses a medical treatment or endoscope system having a long inserting portion, including a bending portion, which is inserted in a sample, the system comprising:

[08a] a positional relationship detecting unit for measuring an insertion length of the inserting portion into the sample ("encoder wheels 27 and 29" 3/60), a bending angle of the bending portion ("strain gages 30" 3/43) and a turning angle of the inserting portion ("torsion strain gages 32" 5/54) during an insertion operation, and detecting a relative positional relationship between the sample and a distal-end portion of the inserting portion ("world coordinate system located at inlet 25 of the biopsy channel" 5/20);

[08b] an information input unit (video-image processor 18" 2/40) which can input predetermined information relating to the insertion operation inclusive of the bending angle and the turning angle ("the position that was occupied by the head in the previous time interval" 5/25); and

[08c] a storing unit ("computer" 5/45) which stores the predetermined information and the insertion length of the positional information detected by the positional relationship detecting unit with a correlation therebetween ("the relationship between the moving coordinate system and the moving coordinate system in the previous time interval can be calculated" 5/35).

[09] With regard to claims 5,9: As noted above, Shan discloses that the predetermined information is at least one of endoscope image information in the sample picked up by the endoscope, character information, a virtual endoscope image generated based on three-dimensional data of the sample, and inserting-operation information ("position... previous time interval" as noted above).

[10] With regard to claim 27: Shan discloses an endoscope system having an inserting portion which includes a bending portion and which is inserted in a sample, the endoscope system comprising:

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- [10a] a storing unit ("computer" as noted above) which stores predetermined information relating to the inserting operation inclusive of a bending angle of the bending portion ("strain gages 30" 3/43) and a turn angle of the inserting portion ("torsion strain gages 32" 5/53) in accordance with an inserting length into the sample of the inserting portion; and
 - [10b] an output unit ("display 18" 4/36) for reading the predetermined information from the storing unit and outputting the read predetermined information based on the inserting length into the sample of the inserting portion obtained by measuring.
- [11] With regard to claim 28: Shan discloses an endoscope inserting operation program for inserting an endoscope inserting portion which includes a bending portion in a sample, the endoscope inserting operation program comprising:
- [11a] a storing step (as noted above) for storing predetermined information relating to the inserting operation inclusive of a bending angle of the bending portion (as noted above) and a turn angle of the inserting portion (as noted above) in accordance with an inserting length into the sample of the inserting portion; and
 - [11b] an outputting step (as noted above) for reading the predetermined information from the storing unit and outputting the read predetermined information based on the inserting length into the sample of the inserting portion obtained by measuring

Response to Arguments

- [12] Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

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- [13] Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
- [14] A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.
- [15] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIP R. SMITH whose telephone number is (571)272-6087 and whose email address is philip.smith@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached between 9:00am and 5:00pm.
- [16] If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272 4764.
- [17] Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Philip R Smith/

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Examiner, Art Unit 3739

/Linda C Dvorak/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3739